

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SY-05 MCT-01 USSS-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00
INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
CAB-02 COME-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 FAA-00 /091 W
-----076349 220949Z /13

O 220927Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8119
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMCONSUL MONTREAL
USMISSION GENEVA
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
COMSEVENTHFLT
COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA AB JA
MAC SCOTT AF BASE
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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DEPT. PASS FAA

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, ASEC, JA
SUBJECT: NARITA FULLY OPERATIONAL

REF: TOKYO 9063

SUMMARY: FIRST TAKEOFFS AT NARITA AIRPORT BEGAN MORNING MAY 22 AMID CONTINUED TIGHT POLICE SECURITY AND UNSUCCESSFUL RADICAL EFFORTS TO HARRASS FLIGHT OPERATIONS. SUCCESSFUL AIRPORT OPENING IS GREAT RELIEF TO FUKUDA, WHO HAD INVESTED MUCH PRESTIGE IN NARITA ISSUE. WHILE POSSIBILITY OF CONTINUED RADICAL HARRASSMENT AND EVEN VIOLENCE REMAINS, POLICE BELIEVE RADICAL THREAT TO AIRPORT HAS PEAKED. END SUMMARY.

1. WITH 13,000 RIOT POLICE CONTINUING TO MAINTAIN STRICT CONTROL OVER ACCESS TO NARITA AIRPORT, FULL-SCALE FLIGHT OPERATIONS AT NEW AIRPORT COMMENCED MORNING MAY 22 WITH DEPARTURE OF FIRST PASSENGER JET AT 0900. POLICE CONTINUE TO LIMIT ENTRY TO AIRPORT TO PASSENGER AND AIRPORT STAFF AND ARE CONDUCTING BODY CHECKS AND SEARCHING LUGGAGE, HANDBAGS, ETC., OF THOSE ADMITTED, CREATING DELAYS IN PASSENGER TRANSIT OF AIRPORT. HOWEVER, FLIGHT OPERATIONS OTHERWISE APPEAR TO BE SMOOTH AND ORDERLY FOR INTERNATIONAL CARRIERS ALREADY USING AIRPORT, AND NO PROBLEMS ARE EXPECTED FOR ADDITIONAL AIRLINE COMPANIES WHICH WILL BE COMPLETING TRANSFER OF OPERATIONS TO NARITA TODAY AND TOMORROW.

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2. OUTSIDE AIRPORT FENCES, RADICALS CONTINUE EFFORTS TO HARRASS AIRPORT OPERATIONS, INCLUDING ATTEMPTS TO JAM FREQUENCIES USED BY NARITA CONTROL TOWER, BURNING OF TIRES NEAR RUNWAY TO CREATE SMOKE SCREEN AND LAUNCHING OF AERIAL BALLOONS AND KITES TO HINDER INCOMING FLIGHTS. HOWEVER, NONE OF THESE GAMBITS HAVE HAD ANY EFFECT ON FLIGHT OPERATIONS. ON EVENING MAY 21, RADICALS ALSO FELLED METAL TOWER CARRYING ELECTRIC POWER LINES IN VICINITY OF AIRPORT, BUT ONLY INCONVENIENCE WAS TO PRIVATE RESIDENCES IN NARITA AREA TO WHICH ELECTRICITY CUT OFF FOR SEVERAL HOURS.

3. WITH OVER 400 RADICALS REMAINING IN VARIOUS SHELTERS ON PRIVATE PROPERTY IN VICINITY OF AIRPORT, POTENTIAL FOR FURTHER HARRASSMENT, AND EVEN VIOLENCE, REMAINS. HOWEVER, SOURCES IN NATIONAL POLICE AGENCY SAID MAY 22, THAT RADICAL THREAT HAS PEAKED.

4. AS GOJ CONTINUES EFFORT TO SPLIT FARMERS OPPOSED TO NARITA AND THEIR RADICAL ALLIES, SEVERAL MEMBERS OF SMALL FARM GROUP STILL LIVING ON SITE OF PROPOSED SECOND AND THIRD RUNWAYS REPORTEDLY DECIDED LATE EVENING MAY 21 TO CUT THEIR TIES WITH GENERAL OPPOSITION MOVEMENT LEADER

(AND CHIEF TROUBLE MAKER) ISAKU TOMURA AND TO SEEK SOME ACCOMMODATION WITH GOJ, PROCESS THAT WILL STILL REQUIRE CONSIDERABLE TIME.

5. IN POLITICAL TERMS, COMMENCEMENT OF FULL-SCALE FLIGHT OPERATIONS AT NARITA HAS GONE FAR TO REMOVE ONE MAJOR CONCERN OF PM FUKUDA, WHO, HAVING DECIDED TO OPEN NARITA AT ANY COST WOULD HAVE BEEN IN VERY DIFFICULT POSITION

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CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

HAD SABOTAGE RESULTED EITHER IN LOSS OF INNOCENT LIVES
OR FURTHER POSTPONEMENT OF OPENING. NOW THAT PLANES ARE
FLYING, FUKUDA ADMINISTRATION HAS BREATHED COLLECTIVE SIGH
OF RELIEF, AND APPEARS ANXIOUS TO TURN ATTENTION TO OTHER
ISSUES. POSSIBILITY OF RESIGNATION OF POLICE OFFICIALS
AND AUTONOMY MINISTER KATO TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR
MARCH OPENING POSTPONEMENT REMAINS STRONG, BUT OTHER
CABINET MINISTERS, INCLUDING TRANSPORTATION MINISTER
FUKUNAGA, NOW APPEAR SAFE. MANSFIELD

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